

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 5

Grade 5

Pass+

Pass+ students demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, describing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels and imaginative forms of literature. Students experience success when encountering new variations on word meanings and new text-based vocabulary. *Pass+* students display advanced writing skills using appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Use word origins to understand the meaning of unknown words
- Analyze text that is in sequential order
- Describe the function of literary devices within a text, such as symbolism, imagery, and metaphor
- Understand implied themes within text
- Include a plot, a point of view, a setting, and a conflict when writing
- Use relevant evidence to persuade an audience

Grade 5

Pass

Pass students demonstrate sufficient understanding when reading, recognizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including genres from previous grade levels and imaginative forms of literature. Students understand many new variations on word meanings and new text-based vocabulary. *Pass* students display satisfactory writing skills using mostly appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Recognize main idea and supporting details
- Make inferences, draw conclusions, or make generalizations about the text
- Understand and explain similes and metaphors (e.g., idiom: *Time flies when you're having fun!* metaphor: *I'm a night owl.* simile: *The diamonds sparkled like the night stars.*)
- Identify the problem in a story and explain its solution
- Understand stated themes in a given text
- Use interesting words to help tell the events of a story
- Write using simple and compound sentences
- Identify and correctly use appropriate grammar, including verb tenses, modifiers, pronouns, conjunctions, and prepositional phrases

Grade 5

Did Not Pass

Did Not Pass students demonstrate limited understanding when reading, recognizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including genres from previous grade levels imaginative forms of literature. Students may have difficulty understanding new variations on word meanings and new text-based vocabulary. *Did Not Pass* students display limited writing skills using basic appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 5 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Use correct capitalization and spelling
- Understand and explain the meaning of synonyms, antonyms, and homographs
- Find information using visual cues
- Distinguish between fact and opinion in text
- Write focused, properly sequenced, informational pieces that include transitions and a summary